



# SITUATION REPORT #63

**INCIDENT NAME:** Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: May 28, 2020	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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**AFFECTED AREA:** Walla Walla, Washington

**CURRENT SITUATION:** COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

<b>2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19)</b> <b>Walla Walla County Residents -</b> <b>Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center</b>	<b>Number</b>
Confirmed Cases	108
Recovered	103
Deaths	2
<b>2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19)</b> <b>Out-of-County Residents –</b> <b>Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center</b>	
Confirmed Cases	4
<b>Tests Submitted –</b>	<b>Number</b>
Estimated Pending Tests Results	47
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County)	2597
<b>Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence</b>	<b>Number</b>
Burbank/Wallula	11
College Place	16
Dixie	0
Prescott	2
Touchet/Lowden	3
Waitsburg	0
Walla Walla	76
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108</b>



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Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	8
20-39	41
40-59	36
60-79	17
Over 80	6
Confirmed Cases by Gender	Number
Female	55
Male	53
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>108</b>

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county department.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2<sup>nd</sup> request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 6/1/2020.
- Received Draft proposal for PPE Invoicing requesting comments. Replied with comments and questions about process. Currently with the Governor's office awaiting final decision and implementation.



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## 1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
WA-2020518963	5/18/2020	Walla Walla County Consolidated Tier 1	Assigned to Logistic Received delivery, this request is complete
WA-202051810313	5/18/2020	Walla Walla County Coroner's Office.	Assigned the Health and Medical Services
WA-20205271690	5/27/2020	BMAC Food Bank Personnel request	Assigned to ESF 20-Defense support to Civil Authorities

## 2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) met with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Local Health Officer, Prosecuting Attorney and Local Emergency Response Coordinator completing Voluntary and Involuntary Isolation Orders specific to COVID-19.
- Maintain contact with media to keep the public informed.
- Unified Command calls providing regular communication and collaboration.
- Frequent social messaging on Facebook, including Spanish-language posts.
- Providence St Mart Medical Center (PSMMC) Population Health team monitoring PUIs and cases, their awareness of community happenings.
- Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) food bank distribution in collaboration with Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Southgate Campus Acute Care wing setup.
- Addressing homeless needs for isolation and quarantine during pandemic.
- DCH Environmental Health team consults for prevention planning for essential businesses.
- Controlled access to WalMart, Home Depot, Albertson's and Safeway.
- Procurement of PPE from Washington State Department of Corrections.
- Continued partnership with WNG.
- DCH met with LTC/ALF/SNF community to stay connected and updated with open dialogue on COVID-19 status in WW Valley.
- Proactive work on PSA's and infographics with digital marketing company.
- Solid protocol established between Coroner's Office and PSMMC.
- Tyson compliance with DCH/L&I Essential Business Guidelines and testing of employees.
- Delivery of PPE supplies and test kits from UAC SEOC has enabled us to provide much needed protection to our whole community.



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- Experience with annual flu immunization clinics and long history of working together gave us the ability to quickly put together a team for testing at the Tyson Plan. 1,290 Tyson employees tested with staff from PSMMC & DCH.
- Aggressive testing at long-term care facilities.
- Spanish-language PSA's on local Spanish-language radio stations.
- Approval of additional DCH positions and increased hours by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Media specific email and phone number established, the centralized PIO email/phone number is working well and is helping with coordination of interviews.
- Ongoing work at PSMMC to do surgeries for most compelling cases that have been delayed; developing protocols. they are performing scheduled surgeries or procedures that are either "urgent, timely or compelling". Examples would be patients that are in pain, might have a worse outcome if they wait or be in danger of losing insurance.
- Volunteer staffing at DCH.
- DCH/PSMMC/Coroner/Consulate's Office worked together to support a local family with international funeral arrangements.
- PSMMC has done a great job of allocating resources, workers, and supplies for the patients under investigation awaiting results.
- Approximately 445 patients tested at Odd Fellows (LTC, ALF) with the assistance of PSMMC.
- DCH conversations with school districts on distance learning strategies and graduation planning.
- Formation of business/economy reopening workgroup.
- 1000 kits received by DCH using the new portal for ordering.
- DCH received fit testing supplies.
- PSMMC tabletop exercise for activation of PSMMC's auxiliary hospital; well attended by community partners.
- Business/economy reopening workgroup team meetings including townhall Q&A with local businesses; webinars to help educate businesses.
- All of the COVID19 test results are back for the youth at Master's Ranch – West; **ALL** were negative.
- Variance request to move to Phase 2 was approved this week.
- There is a lot of misinformation out there on COVID-19, it is an 'infodemic,' including information that 5G mobile networks spread COVID-19 and ALL counties in the state WILL be open June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Washington National Guard deployment extended for support of food bank operations to end of July/mid-August.

### 3. Risks and challenges

- **NO CHANGE FROM YESTERDAY** Walla Walla County now has **108** confirmed COVID-19 cases, **2** deaths, **3** active cases, **103** recovered, **1** hospitalized (out of county).
- Strain on emergency management logistics; frequent changes to resource ordering procedures. Charging for supplies will negatively impact our fire districts as they have limited funding.
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Economic impact felt broadly by all businesses, especially small businesses.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Appropriate, accurate messaging is critical for the community as we see anticipated community spread.



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- Significant reduction in Alaska Airlines flight availability out of Walla Walla Regional Airport.
- Increase in crisis calls and behavioral health/substance abuse patients presenting at hospital; all have been higher acuity of care.
- Ongoing thoughtful, timely communications.
- Business and citizen fatigue from being isolated since early March and we have not yet reached our peak number of cases. Messages to “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” are not well received, community is starting to disobey state at home directive
- Challenge of LTC/SNF/ALF Isolation planning/coordination. Not a clear plan for placement of COVID-19 positive patients to a skilled nursing facility from assisted living facilities or patients being discharged from the hospital not previously in a SNF. PSMMC licensure prevents them from keeping COVID-19 patients once they no longer meet criteria for inpatient care.
- Columbia County (a contingent county to Walla Walla County) is one of five counties approved to move early to Phase 2 of Gov. Jay Inslee's economic reopening plan. Umatilla County, OR (another contingent county) moved to Oregon Phase 1 reopening. Oregon's Phase 1 is equivalent to Washington's Phase 2.
- Logistics challenges with orders from UAC SEOC; understanding what is being sent, when it is being sent. Receiving PPE deliveries with short notification.
- Raising awareness of large gatherings.
- Reopening of businesses/economy. Increasing number of inquiries at the local government level for reopening of restaurants and other businesses.
- Increased risk of noncompliance as county restrictions lift at different rates across the State.
- Multiple testing platforms needed to overcome COVID19 testing challenges.
- Rampant unemployment claim fraud.

## 4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Effective today Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations**; change from Level 1 – Full Operational. (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM coordination with WSDA and Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) for Food Assistance Program.
- WWM Continued collection of donations from the community.
- WWEM going before the Commissioners today to request CARES Act funding for a new part-time temporary position to assist with logistics.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC).
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- Submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Unified Command EOC conference calls.
- Weekly ESF6 Human Services conference calls.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- Case investigation/contact tracing of positive case.
- Continued LTC/SNF/ALF isolation/surge planning/coordination.



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- PSMMC planning for resuming some surgeries; prioritizing most compelling cases, determine criteria, make sure that there is sufficient PPE, parameters to align with number of COVID-19 patients.
- DCH weekend coverage.
- Communicating the State's 'Smart Start' information down to the local level to ensure local businesses understand the requirements for Phase 2 operations. WW Valley Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Zoom call today at 1 pm and our Reopening Workgroup will be going over steps for business to reopen safely, and successfully

## REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 6/3 3:00-4:00

## COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

- May 28:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- The Walla Walla County Variance Application Phase 1 to 2 to DOH was approved today.
- DOH Guidance on 2020 graduation ceremonies is now available (Public & Private Schools K-12)
- DCH convened a Walla Walla Co. Reopening work group meetings held on (5/13, 5/15, 5/18, 5/20, 5/22, 5/27 & 29); including representation from City of Walla Walla, College Place, Providence PSMMC, Walla Walla County Commissioners, and members from DCH to review guidelines on various business sectors to align messaging and customize the guidance to our local businesses.
- DCH to complete short video clips for Facebook called 'Community Health Minute' as needed
- DCH Communications team developed PSAs in Spanish, will be airing 2x day on local radio
- Providence's Population Health team of nurses and social workers has monitored over **2272** patients from the Walla Walla Valley. All were tested for COVID-19 and were symptomatic. Monitoring includes calling the patient within 48 hours of their initial visit and an additional call 24 hours later. Population Health is also monitoring all positive Cases in Walla Walla County, including those from the Burbank/Wallula area.
- DCH is increasing staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing for our Spanish speaking community
- DCH Environmental Health team is providing consults for businesses.
- DCH and City of Walla Walla continue temporary shelter planning for isolation of unsheltered cases
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Homeless Response Plan completed and submitted to Department of Commerce by DCH
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with symptoms
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am M-F
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- DCH attending daily DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- Counties & Cities continue working online, telephone, virtual to limit interactions with the public
- DCH working with Childcare Providers participating in daily M-F call with educators



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- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance.

## COMMUNICATIONS:

- One-Stop for Users: City of Walla Walla's website and Department of Community Health's website now linked together. <https://www.wallawallawa.gov/our-city/covid-19>
- Spanish-language posts to Facebook by DCH; shared on (WWEM) Facebook page.
- U.S. Senator Cantwell has a website with Resources and Information for Washingtonians and Small Businesses Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis: [www.cantwell.senate.gov](http://www.cantwell.senate.gov)
- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** [eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

**HEALTH and MEDICAL ISSUES:** Rapid spread through cough, sneeze, surfaces. 24 to 48-hour contagion window before symptoms begin

**ANTICIPATED NEEDS:** Healthcare facilities will continue to identify PPE needs. Contact tracing.

## WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

### Web Site Information:

- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: [www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus](http://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus)
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

**INCIDENT INFORMATION:** [eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us) 509-524-2916

**PREPARED BY:** Meghan DeBolt, Jodi Ferguson, Local Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, WWCDCH – 509-524-2657 [jferguson@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:jferguson@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

**DISTRIBUTED TO:** Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RECR, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office